

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF TWO KEY HUMAN RIGHTS ADVOCATES PUBLISHED
KOREAN MAGAZINE

SUMMARY: FEBRUARY 1977 ISSUE OF SINDONGA, A MONTHLY LITERARY-
INTELLECTUAL MAGAZINE, WITH A CIRCULATION OF 30,000, CARRIED
ARTICLE ENTITLED "CONSCIENCE VS. POLITICAL MORALITY: A
DIALOGUE BETWEEN CARDINAL KIM SU-HWAN AND REV. KIM KWAN-SOK."
DIALOGUE COVERED ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE
IN A FRANK MANNER. THE FACT THE THE ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED
AT ALL REFLECTS GREATER SCOPE BEING PERMITTED ADVOCATES OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AND GREATER DEGREE OF PRESS FREEDOM AS WELL.
INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE WILL BE SUBMITTED BY POUCH.
END SUMMARY

1. IN PUBLISHED DIALOGUE KOREA'S TWO LEADING CHURCHMEN AGREED
FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE UNDER ATTACK IN MANY PLACES AROUND THE
WORLD, THAT IT IS AN ESSENTIAL FREEDOM AND THAT CHURCHES HAVE
THE DUTY TO SPEAK OUT IN ITS DEFENSE. THEY STATED THAT
FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE CANNOT BE SUBORDINATED TO ATTAINMENT
OF LEADERS IN KOREA THAT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OUR NATIONAL
GLORY WE MUST MAKE ECONOMIC PROGRESS AT SACRIFICE OF
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM. THIS PHILOSOPHY WILL SOON JUSTIFY THAT THE
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MAN OF TODAY BECOMES A MERE TOOL FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT
OF TOMORROW'S GOALS. IN THIS
WAY VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AS A NATURAL
THING AND EVENTUALLY A DICTATORSHIP OR TOTALITARIAN REGIME
WILL BECOME ACCEPTABLE."

2. BOTH AFFIRMED THAT MORAL CONSIDERATIONS HAD AN IMPORTANT

PLACE IN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. BOTH ALSO AGREED THAT IT WAS URGENT THAT KOREANS BEGIN TO PRACTICE DEMOCRACY NOW IF A VIABLE DEMOCRACY WAS EVER TO TAKE ROOT IN KOREA. IN THE WORDS OF REV. KIM, "WHAT I FEEL UNEASY ABOUT IS THE FACT THAT ON THE ONE HAND WE ARE TOLD THAT THE PRESENT SYSTEM IS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE, THAT WE MUST SUFFER A LITTLE LONGER UNTIL OUR GNP GROWS TO A CERTAIN LEVEL OR UNTIL THERE IS A REDUCTION IN THE EXISTING NORTH KOREAN THREAT, ETC. WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND OUR YOUNGER GENERATION ARE DEPRIVED OF ANY ROOM TO PREPARE THEMSELVES FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE DEMOCRACY WHICH IS TO COME."

3. REV. KIM TOLD EMBOFF THAT DIALOGUE CAME AT INITIATIVE OF MAGAZINE, AND THIS SUITED CARDINAL AND HIMSELF SINCE THEY HAVE RESOLVED TO SPEAK OUT STRONGLY AND AS OFTEN AS POSSIBLE ON HUMAN RIGHTS THIS YEAR. ARTICLE WAS DISTILLED FROM TWO AND ONE HALF HOUR DISCUSSION BETWEEN CARDINAL AND REV. KIM WHICH WAS TAPED AND TRANSCRIBED. REV. KIM TOLD REPORTER HE DID NOT (RPT NOT) THINK MAGAZINE WOULD BE ABLE TO PRINT ANY OF THE MATERIAL. EDITORS CUT DISCUSSION DOWN TO ABOUT TWO THOUSAND WORDS AND BOTH CHURCHMEN REVIEWED FINAL DRAFT. REV. KIM SAID ARTICLE AS PRINTED IN MAGAZINE SHOWED A NUMBER OF FURTHER MODIFICATIONS WHICH HE WAS TOLD WERE MADE AT SUGGESTION OF KCIA. NEVERTHELESS, ARTICLE REMAINS STRONG, CLEAR STATEMENT OF RATIONALE BEHIND CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE.

4. SAME ISSUE OF SINDONGA ALSO CARRIED ARTICLE ENTITLED "TRUE PICTURE OF TORTURE POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS: EXISTING CONFIDENTIAL

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SITUATION IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA AND AFRICAN NATIONS." STORY WRITTEN BY IM HAN YONG, A LITERARY CRITIC, REVIEWS REPRESSION IN FOREIGN LANDS AND CAN BE SEEN AS SERVING KOREAN HUMAN RIGHTS CAUSE, AT LEAST INDIRECTLY.

5. COMMENT: DIALOGUE BY CARDINAL KIM AND REVEREND KIM SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN THAT FOR FIRST TIME SINCE EM-9, TO OUR BEST RECOLLECTION, TWO KEY LEADERS IN HUMAN RIGHTS STRUGGLE WERE PERMITTED TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS DIRECTLY TO PUBLIC IN GENERAL THROUGH KOREAN COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. SNEIDER

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